

1-1 By: Deuell S.B. No. 523
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 15, 2005; February 28, 2005,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human
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1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;
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1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 523 By: Deuell

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the regional emergency medical dispatch resource center
1-11 pilot program.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 771, Health and Safety
1-14 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-15 SUBCHAPTER E. ~~[STATE]~~ EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH
1-16 RESOURCE CENTERS ~~[CENTER]~~

1-17 Sec. 771.101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "center"
1-18 means the area health education center at The University of Texas
1-19 Medical Branch at Galveston that meets the requirements of 42
1-20 U.S.C. Section 294a and has received federal funding as an area
1-21 health education center.

1-22 Sec. 771.102. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
1-23 center [~~Texas Department of Health~~], with the assistance of the
1-24 advisory council appointed under Section 773.012, shall establish a
1-25 pilot program to test the efficacy of using emergency medical
1-26 dispatchers located in a regional emergency medical dispatch
1-27 resource center to provide life-saving and other emergency medical
1-28 instructions to persons who need guidance while awaiting the
1-29 arrival of emergency medical personnel. The purpose of a regional
1-30 emergency medical dispatch resource center is not to dispatch
1-31 personnel or equipment resources but to serve as a resource to
1-32 provide pre-arrival instructions that may be accessed by selected
1-33 public safety answering points that are not adequately staffed or
1-34 funded to provide those services.

1-35 (b) The commission shall provide technical assistance to
1-36 the center [~~department~~] to facilitate the implementation of the
1-37 pilot project.

1-38 (c) The center [~~department~~], with the assistance
1-39 [~~cooperation~~] of the advisory council, shall:

1-40 (1) design criteria and protocols and provide
1-41 oversight as needed to conduct the pilot program;

1-42 (2) collect the necessary data to evaluate the outcome
1-43 of the pilot program; and

1-44 (3) report its findings to the legislature.

1-45 Sec. 771.103 [~~771.102~~]. PARTICIPATION IN PILOT
1-46 PROGRAM. (a) The center [~~Texas Department of Health~~] shall
1-47 determine which public safety answering points are interested in
1-48 participating in the pilot program.

1-49 (b) [~~The department shall establish criteria for selecting~~
1-50 ~~qualified public safety answering points to participate in the~~
1-51 ~~pilot program.~~

1-52 [~~(c)~~] Participating public safety answering points must
1-53 agree to participate in any required training and to provide
1-54 regular reports required by the center [~~department~~] for the pilot
1-55 program.

1-56 Sec. 771.104 [~~771.103~~]. SELECTION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
1-57 AND REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH RESOURCE CENTERS
1-58 [CENTER]. (a) The center [~~Texas Department of Health~~], with the
1-59 assistance of the advisory council, may [~~shall~~] select [~~one~~]
1-60 public safety answering points to participate in the pilot program or
1-61 [point] to serve as [the] regional emergency medical dispatch
1-62 resource centers [center]. A public safety answering point may
1-63 participate in the pilot program and serve as a regional emergency

2-1 medical dispatch resource center. A [The] public safety answering
 2-2 point selected [as the resource center] for the pilot program or to
 2-3 serve as a resource center must:

2-4 (1) have a fully functional quality assurance program
 2-5 that measures each emergency medical dispatcher's compliance with
 2-6 the medical protocol;

2-7 (2) have dispatch personnel who meet the requirements
 2-8 for emergency medical dispatcher certification or the equivalent as
 2-9 determined by the [Texas] Department of State Health Services;

2-10 (3) use emergency medical dispatch protocols approved
 2-11 by a physician medical director knowledgeable in emergency medical
 2-12 dispatch;

2-13 (4) have sufficient experience in providing
 2-14 pre-arrival instructions; and

2-15 (5) have sufficient resources to handle the additional
 2-16 workload and responsibilities of the pilot program.

2-17 (b) In selecting an existing public safety answering point
 2-18 to act as a [the] resource center, the center [~~department and the~~
 2-19 ~~advisory council~~] shall consider a public safety answering point's
 2-20 ability to keep records and produce reports to measure the
 2-21 effectiveness of the pilot program. The center shall share
 2-22 information regarding a public safety answering point's abilities
 2-23 with the advisory council.

2-24 Sec. 771.105 [771.104]. CRITERIA FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
 2-25 DISPATCH INTERVENTION. The center, with the assistance of
 2-26 [department and] the advisory council, shall define criteria that
 2-27 establish the need for emergency medical dispatch intervention to
 2-28 be used by participating public safety answering points to
 2-29 determine which calls are to be transferred to the regional
 2-30 emergency medical dispatch resource center for emergency medical
 2-31 dispatch intervention.

2-32 Sec. 771.106 [771.105]. FUNDING OF PILOT PROGRAM. (a)
 2-33 Money in the 9-1-1 services fee fund may be appropriated to The
 2-34 University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston on behalf of the
 2-35 center [the Texas Department of Health] to fund the pilot program.

2-36 (b) The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston on
 2-37 behalf of the center and the center are [department is] also
 2-38 authorized to seek grant funding for the pilot program.

2-39 (c) A political subdivision that participates in the pilot
 2-40 program may pay an appropriate share of the cost of the pilot
 2-41 program.

2-42 (d) The provisions in this subchapter that require the
 2-43 center [~~department~~] to establish, conduct, and evaluate the pilot
 2-44 program are contingent on the center [~~department~~] receiving funding
 2-45 in accordance with this section. If a sufficient number of
 2-46 political subdivisions in a region that could be served by a pilot
 2-47 program offer to pay the center [~~Texas Department of Health~~] an
 2-48 amount that in the aggregate, together with any other funding
 2-49 received under this section, is sufficient to fund the pilot
 2-50 program for the region, The University of Texas Medical Branch at
 2-51 Galveston, on behalf of the center [the department]:

2-52 (1) shall enter into contracts with the offering
 2-53 political subdivisions under which each will pay an appropriate
 2-54 share of the cost; and

2-55 (2) when the amount under the signed contracts,
 2-56 together with any other funding received under this section, is
 2-57 sufficient to fund the pilot program for the region, shall
 2-58 implement the pilot program for the region.

2-59 Sec. 771.107 [771.106]. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. The center
 2-60 [department] shall biennially report its findings to the governor,
 2-61 the presiding officer of each house of the legislature, and the
 2-62 advisory council no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year
 2-63 through 2009 [, 2005].

2-64 Sec. 771.108 [771.107]. LIABILITY. The operations of the
 2-65 regional emergency medical dispatch resource center are considered
 2-66 to be the provision of 9-1-1 services for purposes of Section
 2-67 771.053. Employees of and volunteers at the center have the same
 2-68 protection from liability as a member of the governing body of a
 2-69 public agency under Section 771.053.

